AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-6. (*Cancelled*).

7. (*Currently Amended*) A vehicle capable of changing vehicle characteristics ~~characteristic~~ comprising:

a plurality of ~~plural~~ vehicle characteristic setting portions, wherein each vehicle characteristic setting portion allows a user to set a specific one of a plurality of vehicle characteristics ~~for setting the vehicle characteristic~~ to an ~~a free~~ arbitrary value;

a plurality of vehicle characteristic memory portions, wherein each memory portion stores a group of said vehicle characteristics~~portion for memorizing said set vehicle characteristic~~;

a vehicle characteristic setting selection portion for selecting a group of ~~an arbitrary~~ vehicle characteristics ~~characteristic~~ from one of said vehicle characteristic memory portions; and ~~portion, wherein each~~

control units ~~unit~~ for controlling each of said plurality of ~~the~~ vehicle characteristics, each control unit comprising:~~characteristic including~~

a default characteristic memory portion for memorizing a default characteristic ~~set upon production~~,

a setting characteristic determining portion for determining whether or not a vehicle characteristic received from ~~setting on~~ said vehicle characteristic memory ~~setting~~ portion is valid, and

a selection switch controlled ~~which is changed over~~ by said setting characteristic determining portion,

wherein, when said setting characteristic determining portion determines that the vehicle characteristic ~~setting~~ is valid, said selection switch enables the vehicle characteristic received from ~~being changed over so as to transmit the setting data of~~ said vehicle characteristic setting portion for said control unit ~~to each of said control units~~ and, when said setting characteristic determining portion determines that the vehicle characteristic ~~setting~~ is invalid, said selection switch enables the default characteristic ~~being changed over to transmit the memory data~~ in said default characteristic memory portion for said control unit ~~to each of said control units~~.

8-9. (*Cancelled*).

10. (*Currently Amended*) A control apparatus for a motor of an electric power steering unit ~~for controlling a~~ motor so as to provide a steering mechanism with steering assistance force base on a current instruction value computed based on a steering assist instruction value computed based on a steering torque generated in a steering shaft and a motor current detection value, said control apparatus comprising:

a steering characteristic setting means that ~~which~~ enables a vehicle driver to set up an arbitrary ~~a~~ steering characteristic ~~arbitrarily~~;

plural steering characteristic memory means for storing ~~memorizing~~ each steering characteristic set by said steering characteristic setting means;

a steering characteristic selecting means for selecting a desired steering characteristic from a steering characteristic stored in said ~~memorized~~ plural steering characteristic memory means~~characteristics~~;

a default characteristic memory means for storing ~~memorizing~~ a default steering characteristic ~~set upon production~~; and

a setting characteristic determining means for determining whether a selected ~~said~~ steering characteristic is valid or invalid with reference to a preliminarily specified safety standard, wherein when said setting characteristic determining means determines ~~it is determined~~ that the selected steering characteristic ~~setting~~ is invalid ~~by said setting characteristic determining means~~, said motor is controlled based on said default steering characteristic.

base on a current instruction value computed based on a steering assist instruction value computed based on a steering torque generated in a steering shaft and a motor current detection value, said control apparatus comprising:

a steering characteristic setting means that ~~which~~ enables a vehicle driver to set up an arbitrary ~~a~~ steering characteristic ~~arbitrarily~~;

plural steering characteristic memory means for storing ~~memorizing~~ each steering characteristic set by said steering characteristic setting means;

a steering characteristic selecting means for selecting a desired steering characteristic from a steering characteristic stored in said ~~memorized~~ plural steering characteristic memory means~~characteristics~~;

a default characteristic memory means for storing ~~memorizing~~ a default steering characteristic ~~set upon production~~; and

a setting characteristic determining means for determining whether a selected ~~said~~ steering characteristic is valid or invalid with reference to a preliminarily specified safety standard, wherein when said setting characteristic determining means determines ~~it is determined~~ that the selected steering characteristic ~~setting~~ is invalid ~~by said setting characteristic determining means~~, said motor is controlled based on said default steering characteristic.

11. (*Currently Amended*) The control apparatus ~~device of electric power steering unit~~ according to claim 10, wherein a steering characteristic setting/selecting unit containing at least

11. (*Currently Amended*) The control apparatus ~~device of electric power steering unit~~ according to claim 10, wherein a steering characteristic setting/selecting unit containing at least said steering characteristic setting means and the steering characteristic selecting means is connected to a current instruction arithmetic operating portion ~~for computing said current instruction value~~ through serial communication.

12. (*Currently Amended*) The control apparatus ~~device of electric power steering unit~~ according to claim ~~claims~~ 10 or 11, wherein said steering characteristic comprises ~~includes~~ at least an input/output characteristic and a vehicle velocity response ~~responses~~ characteristic.

13. (*Currently Amended*) The control apparatus ~~device of electric power steering unit~~ according to claim 10 or 11, ~~any of Claims 10 to 12~~ wherein a graphical user interface comprises ~~GUI is employed as~~ said steering characteristic setting means.

14. (*Cancelled*).

15. (*Currently Amended*) A vehicle capable of changing vehicle characteristics ~~characteristic~~ comprising:

a plurality of ~~plural~~ vehicle characteristic setting portions, wherein each vehicle characteristic setting portion allows a user to set a specific one of a plurality of vehicle characteristics ~~for setting the vehicle characteristic~~ to an ~~a free~~ arbitrary values;

a plurality of vehicle characteristic memory portions, wherein each memory portion stores a group of said vehicle characteristics~~portion for memorizing said set vehicle characteristic~~;

a vehicle characteristic setting selection portion for selecting a group of ~~an arbitrary~~ vehicle characteristics ~~characteristic~~ from one of said vehicle characteristic memory portions; and ~~portion, said vehicle further comprising~~

an immobilizer, wherein said vehicle characteristic setting selection portion is disposed ~~being provided~~ in said immobilizer, and each group of vehicle characteristics is associated with ~~while~~ a key that operates ~~of~~ said immobilizer ~~is provided for each of said set plural vehicle characteristics~~.

16. (*New*) The vehicle capable of changing vehicle characteristics according to claim 7, further comprising a control apparatus for a motor of an electric power steering unit, said control apparatus comprising:

a steering characteristic setting means that enables a vehicle driver to set up an arbitrary steering characteristic;

plural steering characteristic memory means for storing each steering characteristic set by said steering characteristic setting means;

a steering characteristic selecting means for selecting a desired steering characteristic from a steering characteristic stored in said plural steering characteristic memory means;

a default characteristic memory means for storing a default steering characteristic; and

a setting characteristic determining means for determining whether a selected steering characteristic is valid or invalid with reference to a preliminarily specified safety standard, wherein when said setting characteristic determining means determines that the selected steering characteristic is invalid, said motor is controlled based on said default steering characteristic.

17. (*New*) The vehicle capable of changing vehicle characteristics according to claim 16, wherein a steering characteristic setting/selecting unit containing at least said steering characteristic setting means and the steering characteristic selecting means is connected to a current instruction arithmetic operating portion through serial communication.

18. (*New*) The vehicle capable of changing vehicle characteristics according to claim 16 or 17, wherein said steering characteristic comprises at least an input/output characteristic and a vehicle velocity response characteristic.

19. (*New*) The vehicle capable of changing vehicle characteristics according to claim 16 or 17, wherein a graphical user interface comprises said steering characteristic setting means.